contributed by the Central Government in such cases shall not exceed Rs. 1500/- per month, and in cases of those under Central quota shall not exceed Rs. 2000/- per month.

The artists are recommended for assistance by an expert committee constituted for the purpose.

Financial Assistance is provided to an autonomous body created by State Governments to set up art and cultural complexes. Cultural complexes for Children as are also considered on a case-to case basis. Details of the scheme are given below:

Scheme	Financial Assistance for Setting up of Multi-purpose Cultural Complexes, including those for Children.
Objective	To promote, disseminate and support excellence in creative arts, literature etc. and to improve the sensibilities of the younger generation by exposing them to the finest forms in different fields of art and culture.
Applicable to	Autonomous bodies registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and set up by a State Government.
Financial Assistance	Assistance will be given for two categories of MPCCs: (i) One project in each State costing upto Rs. 5.00 crores will be considered for assistance upto 50% of the project cost. (ii) In the case of smaller projects assistance upto Rs. 1.00 crore would be admissible. In both cases land will be provided free of cost by the State Government and also all recurring expenditure will be borne by the State Government. In the case of North Eastern States (including Sikkim), Centre's assistance will be in the ratio of 90:10. For all other States, Centre's assistance will be in the ratio of 50:50.

Formation of National Heritage Commission

2607. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are forming a National Heritage Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether new monuments will be identified and brought under protection;

(d) to what extent Government have not properly protected certain old monuments and buildings and Buddhist era ruins and buildings in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the steps proposed to extend protection to such monuments?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Culture proposes to constitute a Heritage Sites Commission, as the present legal and institutional framework is not adequate to address the documentation, inventorisation and conservation of built heritage in its broadest outline. The commission would lay down broad policy guidelines and take steps to ensure that such guidelines are observed.

The functions of the proposed Heritage Sites Commission would include:

tender advice to the Government on heritage matters.

frame guidelines in the matter of conservation of heritage monuments and sites.

can study or cause to study important matters regarding conservation of heritage and submit reports to the Government.

suggest appropriate amendments to the existing heritage legislations.

(c) Under the provision of section 4 of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, the monuments/sites of historical, architectural, archaeological or artistic importance and which have been in existence for not less than 100 years are considered for protection as monuments of national importance.

(d) and (e) The centrally protected monuments/sites including those of Buddhist era in the State of Andhra Pradesh are well maintained and are in good state of preservation. The Archaeological Survey of India undertakes the conservation, maintenance, structural repairs and environmental development of these protected monuments under their Annual Conservation Programme.

Celebration of 150th anniversary of first war of independence

2068. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether **it is** a fact that a sum in excess of Rs. 150 crore has been allotted for celebrations to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the **events** of 1857 also known as the first war of Indian Independence;

(b) whether it is also a fact that eminent historians have resigned from the official panel headed by the Prime Minister in protest against the alleged distortion of historical facts in connection with the celebrations;